

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01

CPR-01 SY-04 USSS-00 AID-05 ACDA-05 NEA-09 AF-06

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O 030820Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7263

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GK, TU, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MEETING OF THE SECRETARY WITH GREEK  
AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTERS

DEPT PLS DELIVER EUR/SE OPENING BUSINESS FEB. 3

1. ON SATURDAY THE ATHENS PRESS CARRIED REPORTS DATED LINED  
WASHINGTON THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THE SECRETARY WOULD MEET  
WITH GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AND TURKISH FOREIGN  
MINISTER ESENBEL DURING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO THE MIDDLE  
EAST. THE REPORTS INDICATED ANY SUCH MEETING WOULD TAKE  
PLACE ON NEUTRAL TERRITORY. THE STORIES WERE BASED ON THE  
REMARKS MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN AT HIS NOON PRESS  
BRIEFING ON JANUARY 31. SOME WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT THE  
SECRETARY WAS SEEKING SUCH A MEETING IN A LAST MINUTE  
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ATTEMPT TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND

RELATED IT TO EFFORTS TO AVOID A CUTOFF OF US MILITARY AID TO TURKEY.

2. THE REPORTS ABOUT A MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE GREEK AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTERS CAME UP AT FM BITSIOS' REGULAR SATURDAY MEETING WITH GREEK NEWSPAPER POLITICAL EDITORS, LEADING TO HEADLINES IN THE SUNDAY PAPERS HERE. BITSIOS WAS REPORTED AS HAVING SAID THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT "IS STUDYING THE IDEA" PUT FORWARD BY SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT HE MEET WITH THE GREEK AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DISCUSS CYPRUS SOME TIME DURING FEBRUARY. THE TIMING SUGGESTED WOULD PERMIT, BITSIOS WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, THE PROSPECTS FOR SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN CYPRUS TO BECOME CLEARER AND FOR THE SITUATION IN GENERAL TO BE CLARIFIED. HOWEVER, BITSIOS STATED, NEITHER SUCH A MEETING AS PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARY NOR ANY OTHER SIMILAR MEETING COULD REPLACE THE INTERCOMMUNAL CYPRIOT DISCUSSIONS. THE MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IF IT MATERIALIZES, BITSIOS ADDED, WOULD BE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS NOT TO LET THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN CYPRUS REACH DEADLOCK.

3. WITHOUT ATTRIBUTING IT TO FM BITSIOS, SEVERAL REPORTS REVEALED GOG UNHAPPINESS OVER THE MANNER IN WHICH THE IDEA OF A POSSIBLE KISSINGER MEETING WITH HIS GREEK AND TURKISH COUNTERPARTS BECAME KNOWN. TO VIMA, FOR EXAMPLE, CLAIMED THE GOG CALLED IT AN IDEA AND AVOIDED CHARACTERIZING IT AS A PROPOSAL BECAUSE IT WAS ADVANCED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN RATHER THAN IN WRITING DIRECTLY TO THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS CONCERNED. TO VIMA WENT ON TO SAY THE US SIDE HAD ANNOUNCED THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING BETWEEN KISSINGER AND BITSIOS AND ESENBEL PREMATURELY, BEFORE IT WAS DEFINITELY SET THAT A MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE. IN A RELATED COMMENT, THE PRESS ATTRIBUTED TO INFORMED CIRCLES CRITICISM OF DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN FOR HIS REMARKS THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS WITH THE GOG WITH REGARD TO MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. THE USG MUST KNOW, THESE SAME CIRCLES WERE REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, THAT TURKEY USED US MILITARY AID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN CYPRUS AND IT MIGHT INTEND TO USE IT ELSEWHERE AS WELL.

4. THE PRESS SPECULATES THAT IN EFFECT KISSINGER IS CALLING FOR A THREE-DAY MEETING, SOME (TO VIMA) SUGGEST BETWEEN FEBRUARY 10-20 AND OTHERS (E.G. KATHIMERINI) THAT IT WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE SECRETARY GOES TO THE MIDDLE EAST. GOOD SOURCES ARE REPORTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THAT, IN ADDITION TO KISSINGER MEETING

SEPARATELY WITH BITSIOS AND ESENBEL, ALL THREE WILL ALSO  
MEET TOGETHER. THE REPORTS ALSO MENTION WITHOUT  
EXPLANATION THAT LONDON SHOULD PROBABLY BE EXCLUDED AS THE  
MEETING PLACE.  
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